

Forget **about** Disciplines - Focus on the **Challenge**

How to reopen and redirect the discussion on the role of the Social Sciences and Humanities in European Research Funding to maximize the impact

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What we urge the European Commission to do:

- shift the idea of integration to a **cooperation on mutual eye-level**
- design calls and topics in such a way that cooperation is mandatory
- make participation of all relevant disciplines a **key concern**
- find a better definition of impact and focus on the **European added value**

How the SSH community should get engaged:

- get prepared for **better lobbying** for your own topics on the institutional, the national, and the European levels
- do not rely on national funding only; Europe needs more **collaborative research**
- **take the lead** in such collaborative projects and work hand-in-hand with the natural sciences and technology-related disciplines
- be part of a **cultural shift** in the scientific community from discipline-oriented research to a focus on the challenge
- **convince Brussels** to spend more budget on research on societies



In Horizon 2020, the European Commission aimed to fully integrate the **Social Sciences and the Humanities** into all parts of the programme. Annual evaluation reports have shown that this idea was not implemented as comprehensively as intended. The working group *ROSE*, Research on Societies in Europe, therefore proposes not to focus in the future on a sometimes half-hearted integration of the SSH community as ancillary sciences at large, mainly technology-driven projects. Instead, topics in the new **Horizon Europe** Programme must be designed in such a way that cooperation on an equal basis is imperative. In addition, Europe's great **diversity**, be it in terms of language, culture, economy or national and foreign policy issues, demands intensive joint research in European networks on the most urging current challenges, such as migration, skepticism towards our democratic systems and towards the European idea, newly arising nationalism and populism, increasing inequality in many fields, etc. *ROSE* suggests that this joint research might be the way to maximize impact on society in Europe in the long run, and the only way to make Europe a **democratic, social, and educated entity**.

key words: *joint research on societies for societies, SSH lobbying, cooperation on equal terms, cultural shift*

ROSE – The Concept

ROSE proposes a new concept of collaboration that requires a **shift** from discipline-oriented research towards a stronger focus on the challenge. Excellent research relies on partnerships between disciplines on equal terms. Research on societal challenges requires a less technology-driven approach and a stronger participation and leadership of the SSH.

ROSE – The Group

ROSE is a working group of EU liaison officers. Our main objectives are to contribute to the creation of the new framework programme for research and innovation Horizon Europe, and to sustainably strengthen the role of **research on societies** in the **European Research Area**. We strongly encourage **scientists and colleagues** to join and support us.

What research administrators and managers can do?

- **raise more awareness** in the SSH community for their role in addressing current European and global challenges and for the **possibilities** European funding programmes offer
- **support SSH** researchers to set up closer connections to the **European Parliament and Commission** and to stakeholders in society
- establish training in impact-oriented and interdisciplinary research at their institutions
- establish closer networks with colleagues not only on the **national**, but also on the **European level** to jointly prepare the lobbying work



**Research
On Societies
in Europe**

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